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ABSTRACT

This lesson is a scenario of an editorial assistant who has to write a memo to a metropolitan newspaper editor advising which of three possible positions to take regarding the impeachment of President Bill Clinton. The editor provides a guide for writing the memo and the guide mandates researching the memo using the Impeachment Links. The guide states the following format must be followed: (1) "Introduction"; (2) "Impeachment Overview"; (3) "Historical Precedents"; (4) "Opinion"; (5) "Refutation"; (6) "Proofs"; (7) "Conclusion"; and (8) "Sources." Web links, print media, online magazines, encyclopedias, and legal sources are given as informative references. (BT)

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Impeachment
What Should Congress Do?

You are an editorial assistant at the Hartfield Express, a major metropolitan newspaper. The Express has followed the Clinton controversy closely. On its web site, it has even posted links for researching about impeachment. Despite the publicity, the Express has thus far avoided taking a position on how the House of Representatives should respond to the Clinton controversy.

When you arrived at work today, you received a note from the editor saying, "Come to my office immediately." As you enter the office, the editor says, "Close the door behind you." The editor then tells you that the paper must take a position on the Clinton controversy. As the editor sees it, there are three possible positions:

(1) The House should vote to impeach Clinton.

(2) The House should vote against impeachment, but should censure Clinton.

(3) Congress should neither impeach nor censure Clinton. The matter should be dropped.

The editor wants you to write a memo advising which position the Express should take. Before you leave, the editor hands you a piece of paper. The editor explains, "Use this guide for your memo. And remember: We need your memo right away. Get going!"

With these encouraging words, you return to your office to start working. First, you read the guide.

GUIDE FOR WRITING THE MEMO

Research the memo using the Impeachment Links.

Your memo will be read by the entire Express editorial board. If the board agrees with your position, the Express will print your memo as an editorial. So write your memo carefully and follow this format:

Introduction.	Give background on the scandal. Remember, this is a family newspaper, so don't provide graphic details. Summarize the actions of the special prosecutor and the actions of the House up to this point.
Impeachment overview.	Explain the impeachment process and what "high crimes and misdemeanors" means.
Historical precedents.	Review the two presidents who previously were subjects of impeachment inquiries--Andrew Johnson and Richard Nixon. Compare the charges against them to the charges against Clinton.
Opinion.	State what you think the House should do. It probably should be one of the three options I mentioned: (1) The House should vote to impeach Clinton. (2) The House should vote against impeachment, but should censure Clinton. (3) Congress should take no action. The matter should be dropped.
Refutation.	State the three strongest arguments against your position. In turn, refute each argument.
Proofs.	State the three strongest arguments in favor of your position. In turn, support each argument with reasons.
Conclusion.	Persuasively summarize your arguments.
Sources.	Make a list of the sources you used.

Impeachment Links

Broadcast Media

ABC "A President in Crisis" http://abcnews.go.com/sections/us/underinvestigation4/index.html

CBS "Whitehouse Under Fire" http://www.cbs.com/prd1/now/template.display?p_section=825

CNN "Investigating the President"
http://www.cnn.com/ALLPOLITICS/resources/1998/lewinsky/

Court TV "Clinton in Crisis" http://www.courttv.com/casefiles/clintoncrisis/

C-SPAN "Investigation of the President" http://www.c-span.org/guide/executive/investigation/

Fox "Investigating Clinton" http://www.foxnews.com/news/packages/president/index.sml

MSNBC "The Clinton Crisis" http://www.msnbc.com/news/clintonunderfire_front.asp

PBS "Starr Investigation" http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/white_house/starr_archive.html

Print Media

Christian Science Monitor "President Clinton: A Time for Reckoning"
http://www.csmonitor.com/reckoning/index.shtml

Los Angeles Times "Clinton Under Fire"
http://www.latimes.com/HOME/NEWS/REPORTS/SCANDAL/.

New York Times "The President Under Fire"
http://www.nytimes.com/auth/login?Tag=/&URI=/library/politics/clintonlewinsky-index.html

USA Today "The Starr Report" http://www.usatoday.com/news/special/starr/starrix.htm

Washington Post "Clinton Accused"
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/politics/special/clinton/clinton.htm

E-zines

Intellectual Capital.com "Clinton/Starr Files"
http://www.intellectualcapital.com/politics/clinton_starr/

Salon Magazine "The Clinton Crisis" http://www.salonmagazine.com/news/1998/01/23list.html

Encyclopedias

Grolier Online "Impeachment" http://www.grolier.com/presidents/ea/side/impeach.html

Legal Sources

Guide to Impeachment and Censure Materials Online http://jurist.law.pitt.edu/impeach.htm
JURIST: The Law Professors' Network recommends resources under these categories: Impeachment Primers, Constitutional and Statutory Provisions on Impeachment, Impeachments in History, Impeachment Procedures, Cases on Impeachment, Censure, Clinton Controversy, and Academic Opinion.

Legal Information Institute "Backgrounder on Impeachment"
http://www.law.cornell.edu/background/impeach/impeach.htm
From the Law School at Cornell University.

A Brief Guide to Impeachment http://www.law.lmu.edu/manheim/cl1/impeach.htm
From Professor Karl Mannheim, Loyola Law School, Los Angeles.

FAQs and Web Resources on the Impeachment Process
http://www.abanet.org/publiced/impeachment.html
From the American Bar Association.

Government

Whitehouse Memorandum Regarding Standards for Impeachment
http://www.whitehouse.gov/WH/New/html/clinton10-2b.html

House Judiciary Committee Impeachment Inquiry
http://www.house.gov/judiciary/icreport.htm

Constitutional Grounds for Presidential Impeachment
http://www.house.gov/lofgren/watergatereport.html

The 1974 report by the staff of the House Judiciary Committee, which examined the history, grounds, and proper uses of impeachment prior to the committee's hearing on the Nixon impeachment.

Other Sources

Policy.com "Congress Considers Impeachment" http://www.policy.com/reports/clinton_starr/

The Presidency A to Z "Impeachment" http://books.cq.com/freeResources/impcopy.htm

Northern Light "The Starr Report" http://special.northernlight.com/starr/

Andrew Johnson

Andrew Johnson's Impeachment Ordeal
http://www.intellectualcapital.com/issues/98/0219/icsmart.asp
By Daniel Glover, associate editor of IntellectualCapital.com, an e-zine.

Andrew Johnson, Impeachment and President Clinton
http://www.nando.net/nt/special/loy0221.html
By Wesley Loy, a reporter for the News-Sentinel in Knoxville, Tenn.

Impeachment Trial of Andrew Johnson http://odur.let.rug.nl/~usa/B/spchase/chase05.htm
From a biography of Samuel Chase, the chief justice who presided over Johnson's trial in the Senate.

Finding Precedent: The Impeachment of Andrew Johnson
http://www.impeach-andrewjohnson.com/
HarpWeek presents excerpts from the Harper's Weekly coverage of the 1868 Johnson impeachment.

The Impeachment of Andrew Johnson http://crf-usa.org/impeachment1.html
By Constitutional Rights Foundation.

Richard Nixon

Watergate 25 http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/national/longterm/watergate/front.htm
The Washington Post's 25th anniversary site on Watergate.

The American Experience: Nixon http://www.pbs.org/plweb-cgi/fastweb?getdoc+pbsonline+pbsonline+41609+0+wAAA+impeachment%26%28impeachment%29%3Ahomepage%26%28impeachment%29%3Astation
PBS profile of the Nixon presidency

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